

【Submissions Open Today】
Win ¥10 Million in Production Funding!
Short Drama Pitch Contest in Collaboration with
Yasushi Akimoto Launches Today
~A Creator Discovery Initiative
for the Web3 Era, Presented by SSFF & ASIA ×
Nihonchokuhan × LIFE LOG BOX~



Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), an Academy Awards®-accredited and one of Asia's largest international short film festivals, has officially launched the call for entries for the "**Short Drama Pitch Competition presented by Nihonchokuhan Inc.**" via the LIFE LOG BOX platform today, Friday, July 10, 2026. This initiative is part of the Web3 entertainment venture "AYET Project" spearheaded by Nihonchokuhan Inc.

<https://app.lifelogbox.com/event/festival/nihonchokuhanshortdramapitch>

This competition is a global pitch contest seeking innovative short drama proposals from around the world. The Grand Prize winner will receive ¥10 million in production funding and the ultimate opportunity to bring their vision to life under the guidance of professional editors. Yasushi Akimoto, General Producer of Nihonchokuhan, will serve as a member of the judging panel. This provides an exceptional opportunity for promising visual creators.

■ Background of the "Short Drama Pitch Contest"

The contest was officially unveiled last month

during the "SSFF & ASIA 2026 Award Ceremony" held on June 10. Key figures took the stage to announce the project, including Akitaka Mizutani, Representative Director of Nihonchokuhan; Kumi Sasaki, Ambassador for the AYET Project; and the official SSFF & ASIA ambassadors "SHOW-WA" (Jun Aoyama and Masaki Shiota). Furthermore, General Producer Yasushi Akimoto expressed his enthusiasm

in a video message, stating, "We aim to create an environment where young talent can actively break into filmmaking, and I eagerly look forward to receiving a vast array of submissions." With Nihonchokuhan fully funding the production, this contest represents a grand initiative to launch original IP onto the global stage. By combining SSFF & ASIA's rich expertise as an international film festival with "LIFE LOG BOX"—a next-generation creative data management platform for the Web3 era—this alliance is fully committed to empowering creators to thrive internationally.



■ Submission Guidelines

Item	Details
Contest Name	<u>Short Drama Pitch Competition presented by Nihonchokuhan Inc.</u>
Submission Period	Friday, July 10, 2026 – Sunday, August 9, 2026
Theme & Genre	Open Theme / All Genres Welcome

Item	Details
	<i>(All formats are welcome, including live-action, CG, animation, VR, etc.)</i>
Eligibility	Open to all creators worldwide (individuals or teams)
Rules & Language	● Must be an original proposal by the applicant/team ● Submissions accepted in Japanese or English only ● Generative AI tools are permitted <i>(Applicants must disclose specific AI-generated sections in the submission form)</i>
Entry Fee	¥5,000 per submission
Results Announcement	Expected in December 2026 on the official festival website (Subject to change).

【Required Submission Materials】 *(You do not need to submit all of the following)*

- Storyboard or script for a short drama under 10 minutes
- Logline (A one-sentence summary of the project)
- Plot summary (Approx. 500 characters/words)
- Visual/mood boards or concept photos
- Demoreel link of past work / Applicant profile (Bio, portfolio)
- Suggested soundtrack/music ideas, etc.

■ **Premium Benefits for the Selected Project**

- Production Support: The chosen project will be fully produced and adapted into a short drama work with ¥10 million in funding, guided by professional editors.
 - Note: The winner's exact role in the production process will be decided upon consultation. Should the winner choose not to directly participate in production and instead sell the project rights to Nihonchokuhan Inc., a minimum buyout fee of ¥1 million is guaranteed.
- Official Credit: The winner will receive a prominent "Original Story/Concept by" credit upon the film's release.
- Profit Sharing
 - : The creator will receive a share of the profits (royalties) based on commercial performance.
- Web3 Integration: Issuance of a blockchain-powered "Participation Certificate" (VC: Verifiable Credentials).

■ Timeline & How to Apply

- July 10 (Fri) 14:00 JST: Submissions Open
- August 9 (Sun) 24:00 JST: Submission Deadline
- December 2026 (Tentative): Results will be announced on the official festival website.
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How to Apply: Please apply via the dedicated submission form on the LIFE LOG BOX platform.

■ Yasushi Akimoto Comment Video:

<https://youtu.be/Sum46Xq1EsA>

■ Message from Tetsuya Bessho, President of SSFF & ASIA



As an Academy Awards®-accredited international short film festival, we have gathered exceptional short films from across the globe here in Japan, showcasing the future landscape of cinema under the pinnacle of our George Lucas Award. We are absolutely thrilled to launch this new Short Drama Pitch Contest in partnership with Nihonchokuhan, which will serve as a vital stepping stone for visual creators building their careers.

Most notably, by utilizing innovative frameworks such as Web3, blockchain, and tokens, and linking them with our digital platform, LIFE LOG BOX, we aim to greatly expand the possibilities available to filmmakers. Under the oversight of Yasushi Akimoto and through the globally expanding AYET project, we look forward to seeing the world converge in Japan through the medium of short film.

【LIFE LOG BOX について】



LIFE LOG BOX is a Web3-era creative data asset management platform seamlessly linked with SSFF & ASIA, which boasts a vast global network of over 100,000 creators. In an era where smartphones, social media, and streaming services empower anyone to become a content creator and publisher, LIFE LOG BOX provides a secure data storage system that anchors services designed to amplify creator success. It allows filmmakers to publish portfolios, showcase works to global audiences, fans, and businesses, and seamlessly connect to an NFT marketplace to monetize viewing rights, ensuring that profits are fairly funneled back to the creators themselves.

<https://app.lifelogbox.com/home>

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia】



In 1999, Tetsuya Bessho, an actor and member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), founded the American Short Shorts Film Festival. His mission was to introduce "short films"—a genre he first encountered in the United States—to audiences in Japan as a new form of visual entertainment. The festival was renamed Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF) in 2001 and received official accreditation from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences® in 2004. In the same year, Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA) was established in co-organization with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Its goal was to promote new visual culture from Asia and nurture emerging young filmmakers. Today, these two festivals are collectively held under the name "SSFF & ASIA". To commemorate the festival's 20th anniversary in 2018, the Grand Prix was renamed the "George Lucas Award" in honor of director George Lucas. In January 2019, the festival marked this milestone with the "Short Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood". Furthermore, the festival's influence has

expanded significantly: winners of the four categories in the Live Action Competition (International, Asia International, Japan) and the Non-Fiction Competition since 2019, as well as the Animation Competition since 2022, earn eligibility for nomination at the following year's Academy Awards®. SSFF & ASIA remains dedicated to supporting young creators through the power of short film.

【Official Website】 <https://www.shortshorts.org/index-en.php>

【PRESS INQUIRY】

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Stills are available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZmgOBVCiBE10s6Vln73TzaQG_cS1TS63?usp=sharing